

May 25, 2010

1400 CST

## **Water Quality Protection Division**



### **Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update**

**Subject:**                    **Water Quality Division Update # 18**  
                                 **Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico**

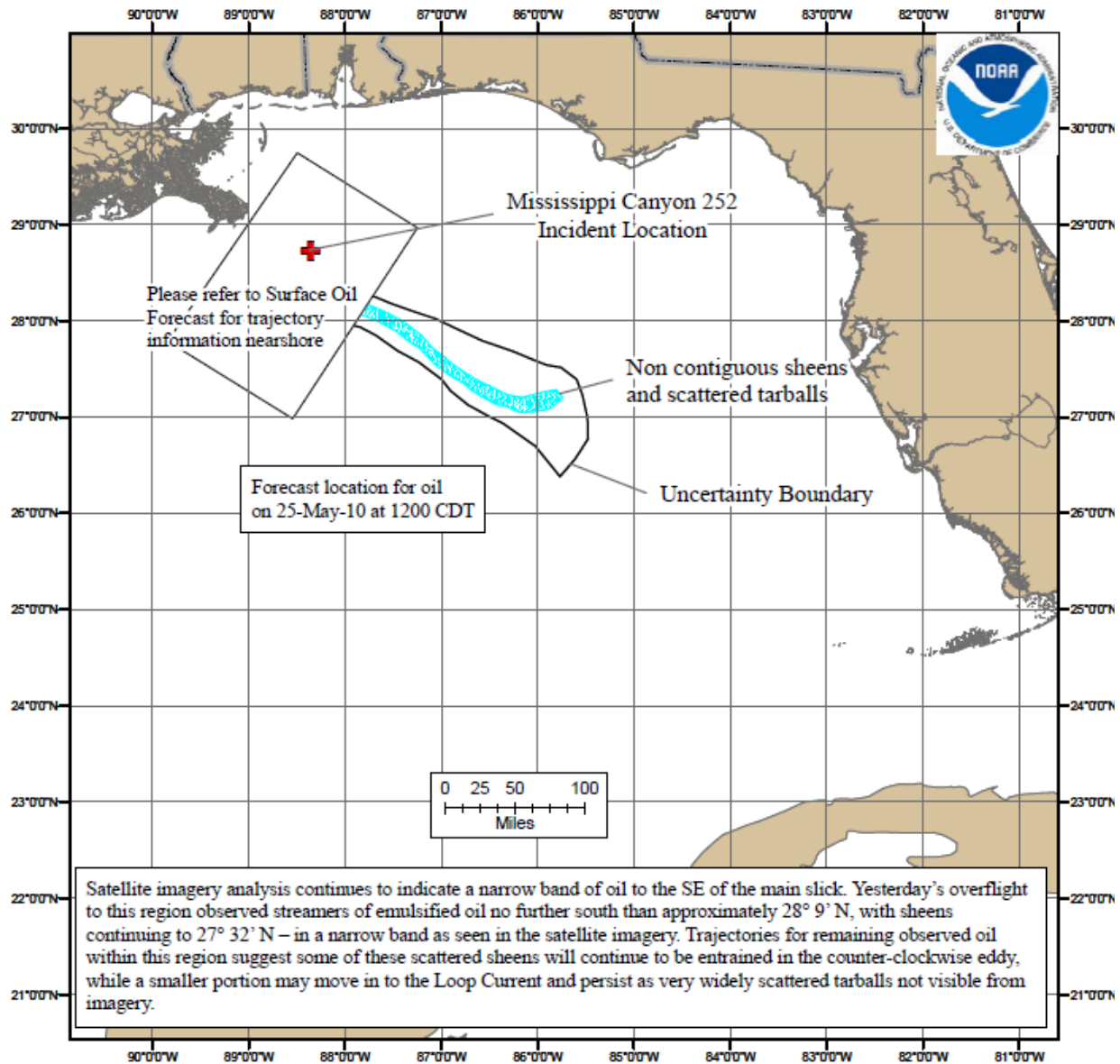
**Date:**                        May 25, 2010

**Reporting Period:**    May 25, 2010 1300 – May 26, 2010 1300

**Situation Status:****Offshore Surface Oil Forecast Mississippi Canyon 252**

Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Tuesday, 5/25/10

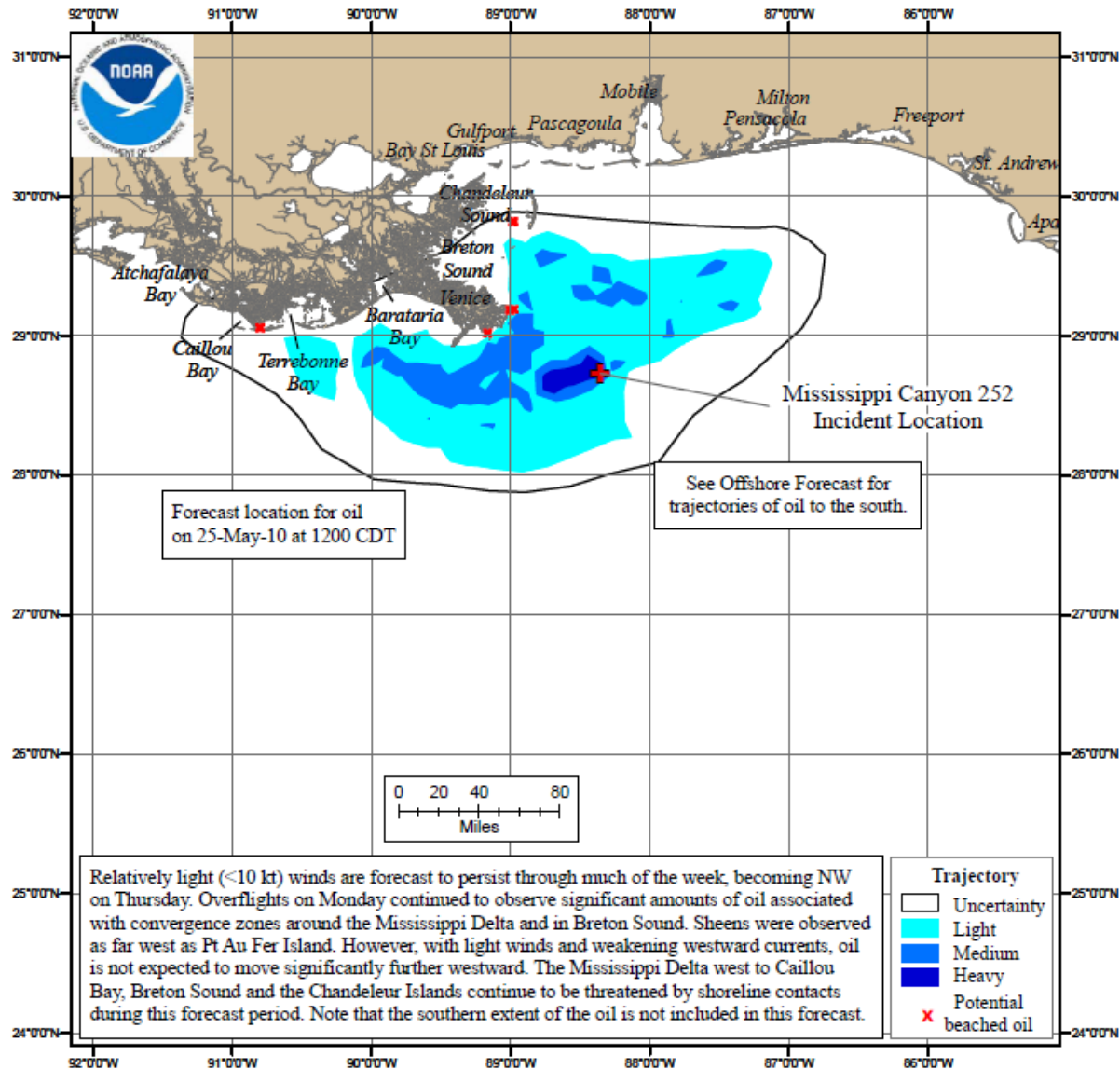
Date Prepared: 1600 CDT, Monday, 5/24/10



## Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast Mississippi Canyon 252

Estimate for 1200 CDT, Tuesday, 5/25/10

Date Prepared: 2000 CDT, Monday, 5/24/10



## Monitoring and Assessment

- Continuing to coordinate with the REOC Environmental Unit as they revise the unified sampling plan.
- Continuing to coordinate with the REOC Environmental Unit on the review of incoming water quality monitoring data, including results received from recently collected oil

sample data (e.g., source oil, oil and debris, tar ball, and mousse-like consistency oil samples).

- Continuing to coordinate with HQ (Office of Water) as they finalize the screening levels under development for use in evaluating water and sediment quality monitoring results and as they develop a data analysis plan.
- EPA is moving away from the current approach it is using to characterize elevated risks to aquatic life on its oil spill response website (i.e., the "red, yellow, green" characterization). For assessing both aquatic life and human health impacts, it is anticipated that data will soon be displayed in a three-column format with check-marks denoting when a sample result indicates exceedance of an acute or chronic aquatic life screening level or human health screening level. A website link to the screening levels themselves will also be provided on the website.
- Attending regular meetings and calls with Region 4, HQ, & REOC.

### Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen and are not projected to be impacted.
- EPA Region 6 is providing the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) daily situation report as well as data summaries as they become available.
- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

### Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- The following CWPPRA Projects are potentially on hold or being re-evaluated due to the oil spill:
  - East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21)
  - Whiskey Island Back Barrier (TE-50)
  - Enhancement of Barrier Island Vegetation (TE-53)
- CWPPRA Technical Committee and Planning and Engineer Conference Call is scheduled for Wednesday to discuss status of projects and oil impact on those project.
- List of CWPPRA projects that may or have become impacted. The list will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Barrier Islands

- PO-27, Chandeleur Islands Marsh Restoration (NMFS Sponsored)
- TE-18, Timbalier Island Planting Demonstration (NRCS Sponsored)
- **TE-20, Isles Dernieres Restoration East Island (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-24, Isles Dernieres Restoration Trinity Island (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-27, Whiskey Island Restoration (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-37, New Cut Dune and Marsh Restoration (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-45A, Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored)**
- TE-48, Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation (NRCS Sponsored)
- **TE-50 Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-52 Barrier Island Vegetation Demonstration (EPA Sponsored)**
- TE-67, East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 1 (NMFS sponsored)
- TE-67B, East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 2 (NMFS sponsored)

Headlands

- TE-23, West Belle Pass Headland Restoration (USACE Sponsored)

Marsh

- MR-09, Delta Wide Crevasses (NMFS sponsored)

Coastal Habitat Impacts

## Louisiana Coastal Barrier Protection Plans:

- Large-Scale Barrier Plan: Staff continued to review a modified plan (submitted 5/23/10) involving several smaller-scale increments involving two segments on the east side of the Mississippi River (Chandeleur Islands) and four on the west side (Sandy Point to Scofield Bay, Barataria Bay). OW is taking the lead and Regional staff members are providing analytical support.
- Corps Emergency Authorizations for Incremental Features: In addition to the large-scale plan (listed under two permit numbers, with four major modifications), the Corps has coordinated with Region 6 and OW on an additional nine emergency authorization requests for placement of non-dredged materials (booms, tiger dams, HESCO and sand bags, concrete blocks, etc.) along barrier islands and shorelines from Chandeleur Sound (St. Bernard Parish) to Isle Dernieres (Terrebonne Parish). Regional staff members are supporting responses by OW.

## Administrator Visit to Coastal Louisiana:

- Staff provided support for a meeting this morning (5/25/10) in New Orleans with Administrator Jackson and EPA response staff.

OW Ecological Impact Analyses:

- Ongoing ecological analyses related to Gulf hypoxia, impacts of various cleanup techniques, and long-term landscape analyses.

Corps Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Ongoing coordination with the Corps regarding potential screening for the presence of oil at several Mississippi River navigation maintenance dredging locations and disposal sites, including the EPA-designated SW Pass Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS).

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- Efforts continue on gathering data sets and maps to determine if water and sediment samples collected by contractor and considered base line were impacted by the oil spill.

NPDES

- Continue to coordinate, as required, with 6WQ, 6EN, 6RC, and HQ staff on NPDES permitting and enforcement issues.
- NPDES Permits and TMDL Branch continues to be available to provide technical assistance as needed.